

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 04593 160600Z

17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 160452Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4869

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4593

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS KN AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA

REF: A CANBERRA 4427; B STATE 139367

1. AUSTRALIAN CHARGE GOGGIN INFORMED EMBOFF JULY 15 THAT ROKG WILL INVITE FONMIN WILLESEE TO VISIT ROK IN MID-AUGUST IF WILLESEE TRAVELS TO HONG KONG FOR AUSTRALIAN HEADS OF MISSION CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO GOGGIN, MOFA DECIDED TO EXTEND INVITATION AFTER CONVERSATION BETWEEN FONMIN KIM AND AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY VICE PRESIDENT JOHN EGERTON, CURRENTLY ENJOYING EXTRAVAGANT DISPLAY OF KOREAN HOSPITALITY IN SEOUL.

2. OBVIOUS PURPOSE OF ROKG INVITATION IS TO MAKE ONE FURTHER APPEAL FOR DELAY OF RECOGNITION OF DPRK BY AUSTRALIA. GOGGIN SAID THAT ASSISTANT FONMIN KIM CHONG TAE TOLD HIM ROKG WISHED WILLESEE TO VISIT SEOUL BEFORE GOA ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH NORTH KOREANS. WHEN PRESSED BY GOGGIN, HOWEVER, KIM SAID INVITATION WOULD STILL BE OPEN EVEN IF ANNOUNCEMENT OF RELATIONS MADE SOON. IN GOGGIN'S VIEW, WHICH HE HAS PASSED TO CANBERRA, A VISIT BY WILLESEE EVEN
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 04593 160600Z

FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD AT LEAST SERVE TO

REASSURE ROKG. GOGGIN ALSO SAID ROKG WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO WILLESEE'S VISITING PYONGYANG AFTER SEOUL, AND TT HIS TRAVELING DIRECTLY BETWEEN THE TWO AS CAIRNS HAD WISHED TO DO LAST YEAR, IF AUSTRALINA-NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED.

3. GOGGIN REITERATED THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANBERRA-PYONGYANG RELATIONS WILL LIKELY COME BY EARLY AUGUST (REF A). HE SAID REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES MET IN JAKARTA JUNE 26 AND HAVE HELD TWO MEETINGS SINCE. JUNE 26 MEETING WENT SMOOTHLY, HE SAID, WITH NORTH KOREANS ABANDONING POLEMICS OF PREVIOUS ENCOUNTER AND STATING THAT AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONS WITH ROK WERE AUSTRALIA'S OWN BUSINESS. AUSTRALIANS INFER THAT PYONGYANG HAS NO OBJECTION TO WHATEVER STATEMENT GOA WISHES TO MAKE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT (REF B). TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT ITSELF HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY AGREED UPON, ACCORDING TO GOGGIN, LEAVING NOTHING TO BE DECIDED EXCEPT

THE DATE.
HABIB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, RECOGNITION, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL04593
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740189-1142
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740745/aaaabmfi.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A CANBERRA 4427; B STATE 139367
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIAN RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA
TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN, AS, (WILLESEE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005